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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6605

BILL NUMBER: HB 1096

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 12, 2002

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Northwestern Indiana Council of Governments.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Stevenson

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill repeals the law governing a regional plan commission in Lake County, Porter County, and LaPorte County and provides that the regional plan commission becomes on July 1, 2003, the Northwestern Indiana Council of Governments. It establishes the council as a coordinating agency for other public and private agencies to provide direct and indirect services to citizens that promote regional objectives. The bill provides for an annual appropriation budget apportioned pro rata to each participating county on a per capita basis. It also permits applications for grants, appropriations, gifts, and contributions from private and governmental entities. This bill provides for the management and expenditure of funds appropriated or transferred to the council and it establishes organizational and operational procedures.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The responsibilities and authority of the Northwestern Indiana Council of Governments established under this bill are basically the same as they are for the regional planning commission. The budgeting process and tax levy apportionment and tax rate limitations are also the same. The membership of the Council is slightly different under the bill, as is the way that votes are weighted.

Under current law, the plan commission is comprised of the following:

- One member from each county executive;
- One member from each county fiscal body;

Each county surveyor;
Two members from each municipality with a population exceeding 50,000;
One member from each of the eight largest municipalities with populations under 50,000 in LaPorte and Porter Counties;
One member from each city with a population under 50,000 in Lake County; and
One member each from the five largest population towns in Lake County.

Under the proposal, the new Council would be comprised of one member from each county executive and one member from each municipality in the participating counties. Additionally, the Governor would appoint one non-voting member. A member's voting allocation would be based on the population that the member represents. For this purpose, the members appointed by the counties represent the unincorporated portion of their respective counties.

There would be five additional members on the new Council. Members would not be paid a per diem, but would be reimbursed for expenses. There could be a minimal increase in local expenses for the additional members.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Lake, LaPorte, and Porter Counties and all municipalities within those counties.

Information Sources:

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